

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, TU, CY, GR, US

SUBJ: PRIMIN IRMAK'S STATEMENTS ON AID CUTOFF;

CYPRUS AND THE AEGEAN

1. PRIMIN IRMAK, SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE TURKISH GOVT FOLLOWING
A FEB 4 MEETING OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, READ A
STATEMENT ON THE US DECISION TO CUT OFF MILITARY ASSISTANCE.
SPEAKING TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY THE SAME DAY, THE
PRIME MINISTER DISCUSSED CYPRUS AND THE AEGEAN.

2. PRIMIN IRMAK'S STATEMENT FOLLOWING NATIONAL SECURITY
COUNCIL MEETING:

BEGIN QUOTE: THE PERSISTENCE OF THE US CONGRESS IN ITS DECISION
ABOUT CUTTING OFF MILITARY AID TO TURKEY, DESPITE THE OPPOSITION
OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE USA AND OF THE US SECRETARY OF STATE HAS
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BEEN RECEIVED WITH DEEP DISMAY BY THE TURKISH PUBLIC.

AS IS KNOWN, THE CONCEPT OF AID COMPRISES VARIOUS DIVISIONS SUCH AS LOANS, LEND-LEASE, GRANT, INCLUDING PURCHASES WITH CASH. THE CONGRESS WHICH DECIDED TO CUT OFF THE AID IS MAKING A VERY GRAVE MISTAKE IN ALL RESPECTS, BECAUSE THESE AID'S ARE NOT FAVOURS AND BENEVOLENCES WHICH ARE ARBITRARILY GIVEN AND WHICH CAN BE CUT WHENEVER DESIRED. THESE ARE MANDATORY COMMITMENTS BORN OF A MILITARY ALLIANCE. THE SOLE YARDSTICK FOR THEIR CONTINUATION, INCREASE OR DECREASE IS MUTUAL BENEFIT. ONE SIDE'S NON-OBSERVANCE OF THESE COMMITMENTS WOULD BE ILLEGAL CONDUCT.

BESIDES, CONGRESS HAS FALLEN INTO ANOTHER GRAVE ERROR BY ENGAGING IN A TEST OF PRESSURE BY LINKING THE AID ISSUE WITH THE CYPRUS PROBLEM, WHICH IS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT QUESTION. THIS PRESSURE IS DOOMED TO YIELD A TOTALLY ADVERSE RESULT, BECAUSE TURKEY IS DETERMINED TO DEFEND TO THE END THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS OF THE TURKS OF THE ISLAND UNDER ALL CONDITIONS. FURTHERMORE, IT IS EVIDENT THAT THIS TEST OF PRESSURE WILL INTENSIFY THE INTRANSIGENCE AT THE TALKS OF THE GREEKS OF THE ISLAND.

THE REAL IMPACT OF THE DISCONTINUATION OF THE AID WILL BE ON THE BILATERAL COOPERATION WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE DEFENSE OF THE ALLIANCE. THUS CONGRESS IS INFLICTING HARM ON THE BALANCE IN THIS COOPERATION AND THE PRINCIPLE OF MUTUAL ASSISTANCE. UNDER THE CONDITIONS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OBLIGATORY REVISION OF THE EXISTING DEFENSE COOPERATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THESE NEW CONDITIONS,

WILL REST ENTIRELY WITH THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE NO LONGER FIND ANY GOOD IN GOING ON WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN CONTINUING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE JOINT DEENSECOOPERATION. THE NECESSARY READJUSTMENTS WILL BE MADE TO THE EXISTING COOPERATION REQUIRED BY THE NEW DEVELOPMENTS. ALSO, THIS NEW SITUATION WILL NECESSITATE OUR MAKING A NEW READJUSTMENT OF OUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEFENSE OF THE ALLIANCE. OUR GREAT NATION MUST BE ASSURED THAT OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS WILL BE SAFEGUARDED UNDER ALL CONDITIONS. END QUOTE. PRIME MINISTER IRMAK LATER REVEALED THAT THE CONTENT OF THE COMMUNIQUE WOULD BE TRANSMITTED IN THE SHORTEST TIME IN EXPANDED FORM IN THE FORM OF A NOTE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. HE SAID:

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"LET'S WAIT FOR DEVELOPMENTS. I HOPE THAT EVERYTHING WILL BE BETTER FOR OUR COUNTRY."

3. PRIMIN IRMAK'S STATEMENT TO THE JOINT SESSION OF THE SENATE AND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY:

BEGIN QUOTE: WE HAVE BEEN TRYING VERY HARD TO LIFT THE MARTIAL LAW AND PASS ON TO NORMAL TIMES SINCE WE CAME TO OFFICE. WE WAITED AND

LONGED FOR THE ATTAINMENT OF A RESULT FROM OUR PEACE-LOVING STANCE OVER THE EVENTS WHICH CAUSED THE DECLARATION OF THE MARTIAL LAW. OUR PEACE-LOVING STANCE MET WITH NO RESPONSE FROM THE OTHER SIDE. THESE EFFORTS WE EXERTED IN THE NAME OF PEACE WERE MERELY FOR THE FOUNDATION OF PEACE AND TO ENSURE THAT THE TURKISH COMMUNITY WILL LIVE IN FREEDOM AND SECURITY. WE HAVE NO CONCESSION TO GIVE TO THE GREEK CYPRIOTS, GREECE OR EVEN THE USA ON THIS TOPIC. WE HAVE TAKEN BIG INITIATIVES TO ASSURE PEACE IN CYPRUS. WE OPENED THE PORT OF FAMAGUSTA BUT THIS PEACE-LOVING MOVE WAS BADLY TREATED BY THE OTHER SIDE AND IT TOOK A DECISION NOT TO ALLOW SHIPS CALLING AT FAMAGUSTA TO CALL AT THE OTHER PORTS OF CYPRUS. OUR INITIATIVES CONCERNING NICOSIA AIRPORT WERE BLOCKED BY COUNTER-PROPOSALS PUT FORWARD. FINALLY, WE ANNOUNCED THAT WE WOULD ADMIT A LARGE MASS OF GREEKS TO THE AREA UNDER CONTROL. WE RECEIVED NO UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THIS EITHER. TODAY THE CYPRUS CRISIS IS MORE HOPELESS THAN A MONTH AGO.

WHILE ALL THIS WAS EVIDENT, GREECE ALSO LAUNCHED THE AEGEAN QUESTION FOR NO REASON WHATSOEVER. FIRST A GREEK MINISTER CARRYING RESPONSIBILITY, BUT GIVING AN EXAMPLE OF IRRESPONSIBILITY, TALKED OF WAGING WAR. EVEN THOUGH THE PRIME MINISTER CLARIFIED THAT IT WAS A MISTAKE THE TOPIC MAINTAINS ITS GRAVITY. AT ANOTHER TIME WE SEE THAT THE GREEK NAVY IS SAILING TOWARDS THE EASTERN AEGEAN AND NATURALLY THEY SAY THIS WITH THE INTENTION TO ATTACK AND THEN THEY DENY IT TOO. ALL THESE CERTAINLY CANNOT BE CITED AS SIGNS OF GOODWILL.

WHILE THIS WAS THE SITUATION IN RECENT DAYS, WE HAVE ALSO COME ACROSS THE GREEK GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSAL TO GO TO THE HAGUE COURT OF JUSTICE. AS A COUNTRY WHICH HAS A CAUSE ON HER RIGHTS ONLY AND WHICH KNOWS THAT SHE IS TOTALLY IN THE RIGHT ON THIS TOPIC, TURKEY IS NOT AFRAID OF GOING BEFORE JUST COURTS. BUT WE ARE A NATION WHICH HAS ALWAYS PREFERRED TO

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SOLVE ALL OUR CONFLICTS BY FIRST SITTING DOWN AT A CONFERENCE TABLE WITH THE PARTIES CONCERNED IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF UNDERSTANDING AND PEACE. THE GOVERNMENTS BEFORE US HAVE DONE THIS AND WE CONTINUE TO DO IT. NOW WE ARE MAKING A LAST CALL TO THE GREEK GOVERNMENT: RESERVING THE RIGHT TO APPLY TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE AT THE HAGUE, COME AND LET US TALK ABOUT OUR DIFFERENCES OF OPINION OVER THE AEGEAN AND SEE WHAT OUR CONFLICT IS AND TRY TO FIND A PATH OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN US, IF POSSIBLE. THOUGH WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT KIND OF RESPONSE THIS CALL WILL RECEIVE, WE STILL WANT TO MAINTAIN OUR HOPE. "END QUOTE
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